

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6540

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4226

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, SHUM, CI

SUBJ: 29TH UNGA--THIRD COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

IN CHILE: SCALI/HUERTA MEETING OCTOBER 18

REF: USUN 4198, STATE 229481

1. AMBASSADORS SCALI AND BENNETT CALLED ON CHILEAN PERMREP AFTERNOON OCTOBER 18 TO DISCUSS US INTENTION TO ABSTAIN IN VOTE ON CHILEAN HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION. AMBASSADOR SCALI SAID THAT IF CHILEANS HAD HEARD EARLIER FROM OTHERS WHAT U.S. VOTE MIGHT BE, IT WAS "REGRATTABLE" SINCE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS ARRIVED ONLY MID-DAY OCTOBER 18. SCALI SAID THAT USG REACHED DECISION TO ABSTAIN AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION IMPLICATIONS OF NEGATIVE VOTE ON RELATIONS WITH US CONGRESS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECT ON BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS TO CHILE. SCALI ADDED THAT US WOULD MAKE STRONG STATEMENT IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE WHICH WOULD "POINT FINGER" AT HYPOCRISY ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS OF SOME OF CO-SPONSORS OF RES.

2. AMB HUERTA SAID THAT "FRANKLY" HE "VERY SURPRISED" AT US DECISION, " WHICH WILL NOT BE UNDERSTOOD IN CHILE."

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HE SAID THAT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT REJECTED RESES OF THIS KIND

SINCE THEY WERE INSPIRED EITHER BY SOVIETS, WHO ARE PURSUING DELIBERATE STRATEGY OF TRYING TO EXCLUDE CHILE INTERNATIONALLY, OR BY WESTERN EUROPEANS TRYING TO SOLVE THEIR OWN DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT FORGET THE EXPRESSIONS OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT HE HAD HAD FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER IN THEIR SEVERAL MEETINGS (HE CITED WASHINGTON AND MEXICO CITY) WHILE HE WAS CHILEAN FONMIN. HE SAID HE WOULD QUOTE SECRETARY'S PRECISE WORDS: "YOU MAY COUNT ON MY FULL SUPPORT," REGARDLESS OF POSITIONS OTHERS MIGHT TAKE.

3. HUERTA NOTED RUEFULLY THAT WHILE CHILE THOUGHT IT COULD "ALWAYS RELY ON FRIENDSHIP OF US" IT WOULD NOW HAVE TO CONCLUDE THAT IT HAS BECOME A "POLITICAL BURDEN" FOR THE US AS WELL. AMBASSADOR SCALI ASSURED HUERTA THAT US STILL MAINTAINS POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT FOR GOC, AND EXPRESSED CERTAINTY THAT SECRETARY "STANDS BY HIS WORDS." THE USG UNDERSTANDS DIFFICULT SITUATION FACING CHILE TODAY AND WISHES TO ASSIST CHILE IN REGULARIZING CONDITIONS. SCALI REGRETTED THAT FOR TACTICAL REASONS WE FORCED TO TAKE POSITION ON THIS RES WHICH WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR CHILEANS TO ACCEPT. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THIS TACTIC BEST IN TERMS OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST CHILE AND AVOID POSSIBLE IMPOSITION OF RESTRICTIONS ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BY CONGRESS. THUS, WE BELIEVE WE ARE IN FACT GIVING SUPPORT TO CHILE. SCALI ASKED HUERTA TO CONVEY TO GOC US HOPE THAT VOTE ON THIS RESOLUTION WOULD BE "PUT INTO PERSPECTIVE".

4. WHILE NOT LINKING MATTER DIRECTLY TO US VOTE ON THIS RESOLUTION, AMBASSADOR SCALI RAISED ATTITUDE OF GOC TOWARDS US CORRESPONDENTS. HE SAID THAT US PRESS IS AN HONEST ONE AND THAT, WHILE SOME UNFAVORABLE STORIES ABOUT CHILE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY APPEAR, FREE ACCESS OF US CORRESPONDENTS WOULD WORK OVERALL TOWARDS CHILE'S BENEFIT. HE NOTED THAT BY BARRING MEMBERS OF US PRESS, GOC CREATES SUSPICION THAT IT HAS SOMETHING TO HIDE. HUERTA REPLIED THAT IN RECENT WEEKS CHILEAN JUNTA HAD BARRED ONLY NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT KANDELL BECAUSE OF HIS CONSISTENTLY DISHONEST REPORTING BUT HAD NOT RULED OUT ENTRY OF OTHER CORRESPONDENTS BY NEW YORK TIMES. HUERTA CONCLUDED WITH COMMENT THAT

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WHILE HE WAS ADMIRER OF FREE PRESS IN US WHICH IS "STRONG SOCIETY", CHILEAN SOCIETY IS VERY DIFFERENT AND LESS STRONG.

5. AT END OF MEETING, SCALI AND HUERTA AGREED THAT IN SPITE OF DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON THIS VOTE, TWO MISSIONS WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER.

6. STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION ON CHILE BEING REPORTED

SEPTEL.

7. COMMENT: IN SPITE OF HUERTA'S GENUINE DISAPPOINTMENT
AT US POSITION, HE WAS CORDIAL AT ALL TIMES AND SEEMED GEN-
UINELY APPRECIATIVE OF AMBASSADOR SCALI'S CALL ON HIM AT
CHILEAN MISSION.
BENNETT

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